

# OQ Integrity Coalition

Establishing High Credibility in a Universal Approach to  
PHMSA's Operator Qualification Expectations



# OQ Integrity Coalition

## Our Industry-Focused Challenge:

Design the OQ Process to establish a high level of Integrity in the delivery of all aspects of OQ, which ultimately provides for credible and valid Qualifications of each identified task's Common Core Competencies being transferable.



# Coalition Members



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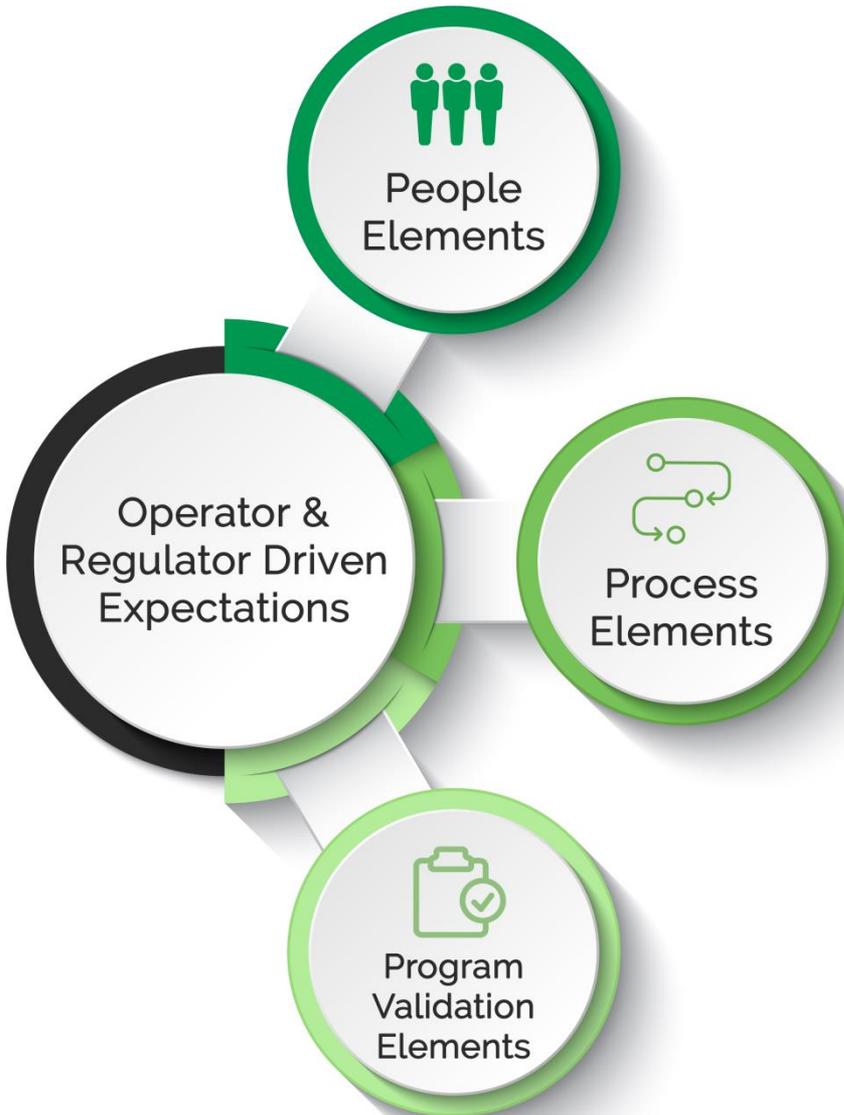


# OQ Integrity Program Stakeholders



Each entity has it's own needs and benefits from a Transferable Qualification Program.

# Operator/Regulator Driven Expectations



- KSA & Process **Consistency**
- Regulatory **Compliance**
- **Exceeds** Minimum
- Focus on **Core Competencies**
- **Operators Control** O&M Specifics
- Program **Effectiveness**
- **Verifiable** via Audits & Records
- Benefits **Workforce Development**

# People Elements



Operator &  
Regulator Driven  
Expectations



Process Elements

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Program  
Validation  
Elements

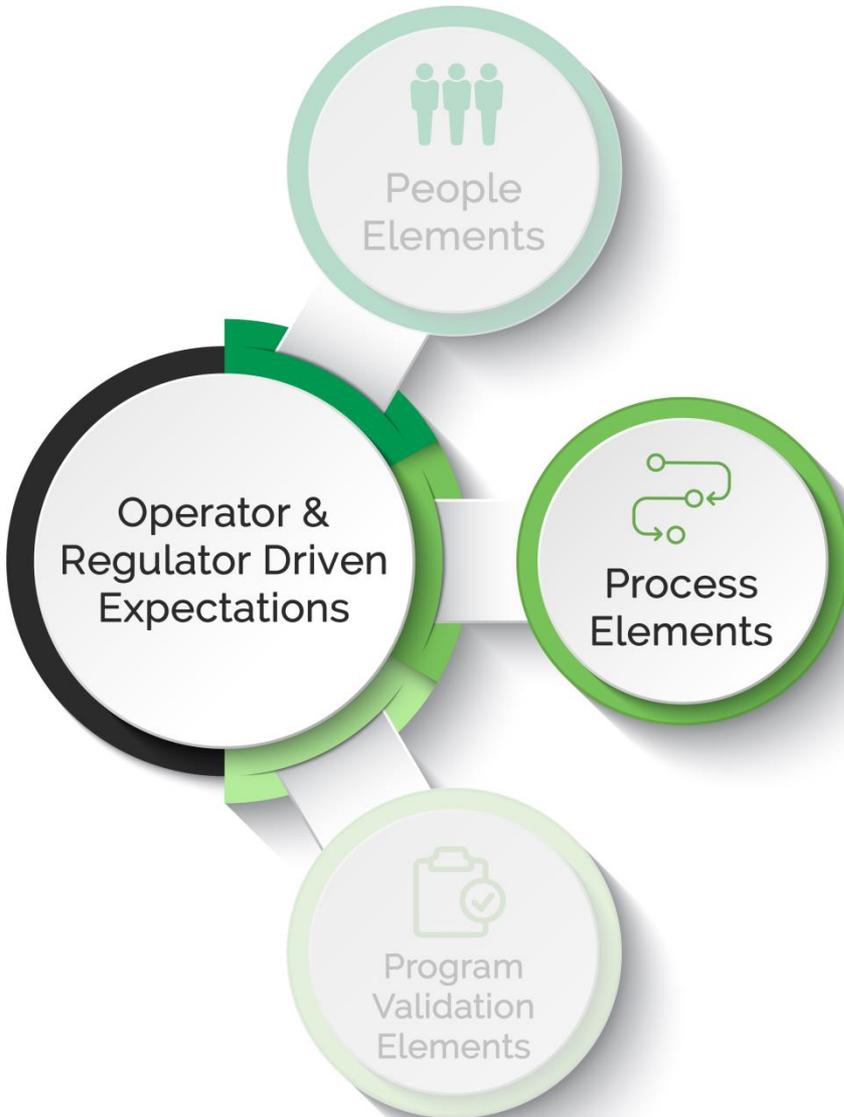
A circular icon with a light green border and a white background. Inside the circle, there is a light green icon representing a folder with a checkmark. Below the icon, the text "Program Validation Elements" is written in a black, sans-serif font.

- Trainers | Proctors | Evaluators | Auditors
- Selection **Criteria & Credentialing:**
  - Education
  - Training
  - Experience
  - Qualifications & Certifications
- **Quality Validation** & Re-authorization
- Internal & External/Third-Party

# Program Elements for People Credentials

- Credentialed Trainers, Proctors, Evaluators & Auditors
- Requires Industry Accepted Credentialing
- Combo of Education, Training and/or Experience
- Must Maintain and Refresh Credentials
- Subject to Audit and Program Effectiveness Reviews

# Process Elements



- ASME B31Q Standard & Covered Task List
- Detailed Core Competency Development
- Program Focus on universal truths
- Training Curriculum Consistency
- Testing Methodology, Integrity & Security
- Skill & Ability - Observe/Verify Performance
- Management of Change Controls

# Program Elements for Core Knowledge

- Learning Objectives align directly to B31Q core
- At least 1 test question per learning objective
- < 10% True/False Questions
- Exam Time Limits = 3 minutes per question
- Banked Test Questions (back-up, rotation & random)
- 80% Minimum Score to pass knowledge exam
- Lock-out/wait periods (24/48/72 hour waits after fail)
- Electronic Testing preferred – paper ok with records
- Proctoring required

# Program Elements for Core Performance

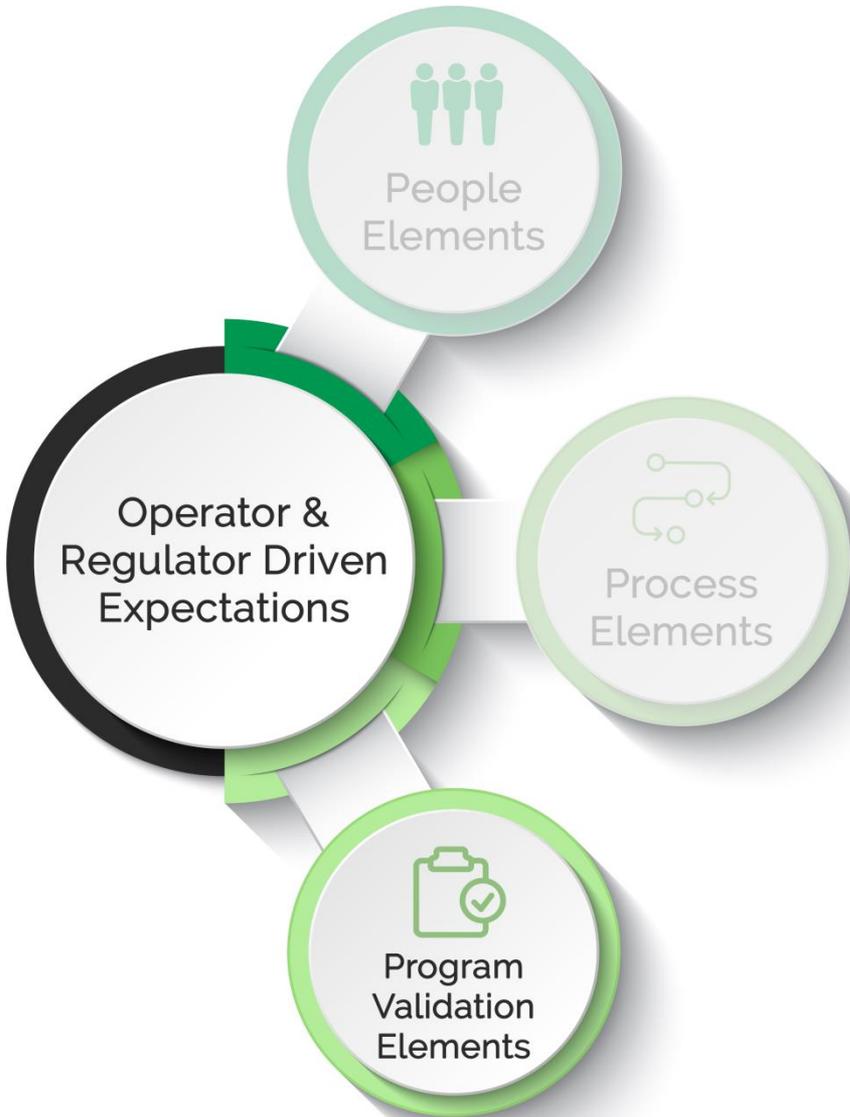
- Observed steps align directly to B31Q core
- AOCs must be included
- Actual performance required (simulation or field)
- Must use vetted/credential evaluators
- Electronic Testing preferred – paper ok with records
- Track both passed and failed evaluation attempts
- Waiting periods (24/48/72 hour waits after fail)

# Program Elements for Recordkeeping

Individual Worker	Task	Evaluation Method
Last Name	B31Q Task Name	Type (knowledge/performance)
First Name	Task ID Reference Number	Format (electronic/paper)
Middle Name/Initial	Training Completed Date	
Suffix	Task Expiration Date	Evaluation Expiration Date
Unique ID Number	Source of Qualification	Evaluation Completion Date
	Flags for Suspension Records	Number of Attempts to Pass
		Exam Score and Pass/Fail Status
		*Trainer/Proctor/Evaluator Info

*\*Credentials for Trainers, Proctors, Evaluators and Auditors must be maintained, including name and ID info, and date and source of credentialing*

# Program Validation Elements



## Program Compliance Validation:

- Internal **Self-Audit &** Program Effectiveness Reviews
- Independent Third-Party **External Audits**
- Recordkeeping/Documentation

# Program Elements for Reviews & Audits

- Internal Self-Audits for Alignment with Program
- Annual Internal Program Effectiveness Review
- External/Third-Party Audits (1<sup>st</sup> year & every 3 years)
- Credentialed Auditors (internal and external)
- Retained Audit Records
- Audit Result Oversight by Program Governing Body

# Program Summary

A standardized, credible, and valid process of deploying Integrity in OQ for our industry will increase OQ compliance and transferability, and also create **Synergy** and **Win-Win** scenarios for:

- ✓ Enhanced Operator Qualifications
- ✓ Continuous Improvement & Program Effectiveness
- ✓ Increased Accountability & Transparency
- ✓ Risk Mitigation & Regulatory Confidence
- ✓ Workforce Development

# Next Steps

- ✓ Engage more Industry Stakeholders
- Finalize the OQ Integrity Program Document
- Deploy a Pilot Program
- Monitor and Measure Results
- Revise OQ Integrity Program Document, as needed
- Publish & Communicate Results
- Enlist Industry Support and Engagement
- Initiate Program Implementation

# Final Q & A



**Thank you.**

